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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

DIET FOR AN OBSTETRICAL PATIENT

DEAR EDITOR: I am not satisfied with my understanding of a nursing mother's diet. There is a wide difference of opinion among the physicians from whom I receive instructions, sometimes quite opposite opinions. It is my earnest desire to help both mother and child to thrive and I would greatly appreciate any suggestions offered. Many times I see a baby gain splendidly from day to day, yet it will be greatly distressed with colic after I have exhausted my resources for prevention and relief.

Ohio.

F. E.

ANOTHER REPLY TO "SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR NURSE"

DEAR EDITOR: In opening the pages of a recent issue of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING I hoped, as it always had been the case heretofore, to find myself on neutral ground; all the keener was my disappointment when I came across a letter in the October number written by a Spanish-American war nurse, of Bryn Mawr, called "Peace and Protection." In order that I might not be found guilty of not practicing what I preach, I will not enter into a discussion of the truth and merit of the statements contained therein, though much might be said on that subject, but I do protest most vigorously against a policy which allows such utterances to appear in a professional journal supposedly devoted to the art and science of nursing and the prevention of disease. Any one who wishes to add to the existing conflagration, by fanning the flames of hatred now consuming half the civilized world, surely finds plenty of opportunity in our corrupt daily press. It is not so much the bad taste of the writer of the letter that is to be condemned as it is the lack of judgment, tact, and discretion on the part of the editors for permitting it to appear in a journal which should hold itself aloof from the discussion of international politics at such a time.

Among your readers, no doubt, are women of all the various nations now at war with each other; is it your place by giving utterance to the opinion of one to hurt the feelings and offend the sympathies of the others? I sincerely hope that in the future you will carefully exclude from your papers all communications that are not absolutely neutral.

New York.

B. K.

TO CHECK EPISTAXIS

DEAR EDITOR: I recently had a patient, forty years of age, who awakened one night suffering with epistaxis. I was called on the case after three days, during which time all the usual treatments had been tried, such as applying cold to the back of the neck, to the forehead and to the bridge of the nose, using astringent sprays, etc., but to no avail. The patient had become very weak from loss of blood and, being a heart case, for a time his life was supposed to be in danger. After taking the case, I learned that the patient had had only a few

hours' relief following these treatments, when the hemorrhage would start again. I had been with him but a short time when he told me he could feel the blood escaping down his throat, the nose having been packed. It was in the country where it is not always easy to reach a doctor and delay meant danger. Suddenly, as if some strange creature suggested the idea, I thought of a bandage I had in my bag and of its possible use. It was a new two-inch bandage and I unrolled it until it was as thick as my index finger, cut it, and put the piece that remained rolled under the patient's upper lip, pressing it well against the base of the nostril and telling him to keep his mouth closed, to help the pressure, and to keep as quiet as possible. In the meantime I telephoned to the doctor who, being on a maternity case, could not come at once. To my surprise and delight, when I returned the bleeding had ceased. After that, the ends of the bandage that usually go to waste, became an important factor. The patient had no more trouble until the next day, when a slight bleeding was noticed. The new treatment was brought into use with great success, and a fresh bandage was kept always handy. In a few days, aside from weakness, the patient was well on the road to recovery.

New York.

F. B. F.

RED CROSS MEMBERSHIP

DEAR EDITOR: In response to the inquiry of one of the enrolled nurses, I would say that at the annual meeting of the American Nurses' Association in 1909, it was voted to affiliate with the American Red Cross and to organize, through a national committee appointed by the War Relief Board, a nursing service for the American Red Cross. In recognition of this affiliation, the American Red Cross provided for a special membership of state nurses' associations organized for Red Cross work, giving them the right to delegate representation at the annual meeting of the American Red Cross. In formulating the rules for the enrollment of nurses it was decided that one of the requirements for enrollment should be membership in the American Nurses' Association, the organization affiliated with the American Red Cross. This membership might be either direct or through any of the organizations belonging to the American Nurses' Association, such as state, county or alumnae associations. It would not, however, be possible for enrolled nurses to consider themselves members of the American Nurses' Association by right of their enrollment, as the Red Cross organization is not a member of the American Nurses' Association but simply affiliated with it. It would seem to me that this point should be quite clear, by the fact that the Red Cross requires membership in the American Nurses' Association before accepting a nurse for enrollment. This requirement would scarcely have been made had each enrolled nurse become a member of the Association by virtue of her enrollment.

Washington, D. C.

JANE A. DELANO.